

Please replace the abstract with the following amended abstract:

The invention provides *Staphylococcus aureus* methionyl tRNA synthetase polypeptides and DNA (RNA) encoding *Staphylococcus aureus* methionyl tRNA synthetase polypeptides and methods for producing such polypeptides by recombinant techniques. Also provided are methods for utilizing *Staphylococcus aureus* methionyl tRNA synthetase polypeptides for the protection against infection, particularly bacterial infections.